

SHATIN TSUNG TSIN SECONDARY SCHOOL

Messages to Shatin Tsung-tsiners

19-9-2008

Dear Shatin Tsung-tsiners,

*****A new start*****

The school is off to a new start,
with many new students, a strong staff and busy clerks.
Everyone is stepping up efforts for good marks,
by not merely working hard,
but also by studying with passion and a thoughtful heart
which can make you like a lark, singing joyfully in the school parks.

*****A tough and life-long task*****

Using English is nonetheless an important part,
in an EMI school where things will fall apart,
if we do not stick to our vision and be faithful to our tasks.
Self-motivated study allows you to go further than what can't otherwise last,
and Hong Kong-style communication skills are what usually make others laugh.
It is always wise to overcome the fears of being laughed (at),
and to stifle others' laughter by enduring whatever deemed harsh.
Keeping close contact with current affairs (through newspapers and TV news) will make you smart,
and will equip you with enough firepower to bark,
in your hours of need for gunpowder effective and fast.
Short-cut to good English is nothing other than a dream path,
as the long road to good quality language always requires an unbeatable and unbreakable heart.

*****An obstacle to a smooth learning path*****

No obstacle to learning English is greater than a poor mindset,
always thinking that young minds should only be given/learn easier language set.
In fact, progress occurs only when there are new elements or phrases which people find common and funny to
express.

If you can't fully digest, go to get a dictionary and take a reflective rest.
“How difficult can it possibly be when in the dictionary all meanings and usage can be found and said?”
It is not a matter of ability but your willingness to make what you want to happen in an upset 爆冷.
Always feeding yourself with or being fed with low-level / ABC English will only cause upset,
while you are facing fierce competition with everyone delivering the same answer set.

****A key to English that commands better marks*****

Good-quality input can't guarantee growth
unless it is matched by reciprocal effort towards the same goal.
Leaning only superficial language can't help you secure a gold,
unless what you learn can be echoed by those whom you don't know.

Learning just 'good' or 'excellent' / 'high-class' to describe a product can no longer make you successfully roll,
knowing the English for '高檔的' '升級版的' can make your story well/accurately-told.
Using commonplace expressions like 'winning a gold' can never allow you to give a big throw,
and the use of English words for '遙遙領先', '問鼎', '三屆冠軍', '並列', '打成平手', '連贏十次' can surely
give your enemies a big blow.

Be selective in the choice of vocabulary items you want to get hold,
and the English equivalents of '公帑', '呃秤', '見怪', '擅自' may revive your interest more captivatingly than
average writing load.

Also, always be cautious about the use of expressions which are too old.

Watching movies and current news can help update whatever you need to know,
and let you develop a better understanding of how meanings underlying words in different contexts are told.

****A reminder to those who find English learning harsh****

The 2008 English Week is around the corner,
and the English Public Examinations (HKCEE and HKAL) are over the horizon.
In the days, months and years ahead should be a fierce competition for your time and vigour,
as constant and regular exposure is what is needed for constant progress and growing fever.
It can never be an overnight endeavour, but a long-term commitment and no-easy matter.

Time allocation shouldn't be tilted towards others,
once you realize how English can affect your future careers.

Just by looking at this paper,
how many English words and sentence patterns are you willing to learn and keep forever?
Are you simply willing to tolerate your inability to understand everything on this paper?
Why not get a pen, a dictionary and a notebook to keep good stuff in your file manager!
Don't always excuse yourself with words like 'difficult' or later you will suffer.
Instead, make things happen with your willpower to turn the table and corner.

****An attitude that allows you to make your mark****

With passion, vision and mission, I wrote this to all Tsung-tsiners,
there is no such things as free lunch whatsoever.
One simply can't share the honor without sharing the painkiller.
One simply can't share all good learners' passion but none of the pain they suffer.
Language learning is only one of the many areas,
in which the Olympic Spirit : Excellence, Respect and Fairness should be manifested and reign above others.
Wish all Tsung-tsiners an arduous but a fruitful year.

Feel free to raise questions with your teachers without fear.